

REMARKS

Claim 13 is currently being amended to incorporate previously pending claim 17 therein. Accordingly, claim 17 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, along with claims 11, 18, 20, 22, and 26. The amendments presented herein do not introduce new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter these amendments.

1. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant kindly thanks the Examiner for acknowledging claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response to the instant Office Action, Applicant has amended claim 13 to incorporate all of the limitations of previously pending claim 17 therein. Therefore, Applicant respectfully believes the pending rejection should be withdrawn, and claims 13-15, 19, 21, and 25 should be in condition for allowance.

2. Rejection of Claims 13-15, 19, 21, and 25 Under 35 U.S.C.

§102(b) to Dohring, et al.

Applicant has amended claim 13 by incorporating all of the limitations of previously pending claim 17 therein. Therefore, since claim 17 has been deemed allowable over Dohring, et al., Applicant respectfully believes the pending rejection should be

withdrawn, and claims 13-15, 19, 21, and 25 should be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the above remarks, the presently claimed subject matter is believed to be novel and patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the pending rejection, and allow claims 13-15, 19, 21, and 25. Favorable action with an early allowance of the claims pending in this application is earnestly solicited.

In order to advance the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is welcomed to telephone the undersigned practitioner if he has any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

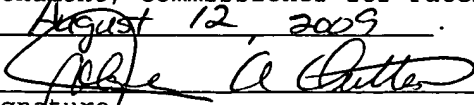
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

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